

Cagers Claim Overtime Wins Over Bessemer City



Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

Little Guards Big Men in KMHS Lineup

Kings Mountain high school Mountaineer's two starting guards measure only five feet, five inches tall but through the first four pre-season games, those two boys have been the big men in the Mountie lineup.

Senior Neal Cooper and junior Nelson Connor have been the main factor which has led the Mountaineers to a 3-1 record going into Friday's game at Lowell against the Holbrook Lions. Friday's game will be the last until after the Christmas holidays.

Connor is currently second in scoring with 43 points in four games, an average of 10.7 points per contest. He has bucketed 18 field goals and seven foul shots for the total. His highest output on the season was 13 points against York last Tuesday.

Connor has hit in double figures in three of the four games, getting 13 against York, 12 in the season's opener against Bessemer City and 11 in Monday night's contest with Bessemer. He scored only seven points against Holbrook but fouled out early in the fourth period.

Cooper is fourth in scoring but it has been his play-making and ballhandling which has made him popular thus far this season. He has scored 32 points in four games for an 8.0 average and has hit in double figures only once. He netted 12 points against Bessemer Monday night.

His ability to handle the ball has won Kings Mountain two of its three victories. Cooper froze the ball for a minute and a half against Lowell Friday night when the Mounties took a 40-39 win over the Lions and he froze the ball for the Mounties in their 56-55 win over Bessemer Monday night in overtime.

Cooper's fourth quarter and overtime output of eight points Monday night led the Mounties to a brilliant comeback. The Mountaineers were down eight points early in the fourth stanza but Cooper pulled them from behind to a tie, forcing the game into overtime.

Mitchem Mounties' Leading Scorer

Freshman Negro Kenneth Mitchem has already proven to local cage fans that integration is going to help Kings Mountain high school athletic teams.

The 1965 ninth grade football standout is currently carrying a 12.0 average and is the leading scorer on the varsity basketball team with 48 points in four games.

Mitchem's biggest output was 18 points in the season's opener against Bessemer City. He has hit in double figures in all but one game, that being a 43-37 loss to York. He scored 10 points before fouling out with 5:10 left in the fourth quarter against Bessemer Monday night.

The 5-11 forward is the team's top defensive player as he has grabbed more rebounds than any other Mountaineer. Kenny scores most of his points with a jumper from the corner.

Scott Cloninger put on a scoring burst Monday night and ended up with 11 points, the first time in double figures for the 6-3 senior. Cloninger is fifth in scoring for the Mounties with 25 points and a 6.3 scoring average.

Junior center Larry Burton, the tallest boy on the team at 6-5, is third in scoring thus far with 37 points and a 9.2 average. He has hit in double figures twice, 11 against Bessemer City in the opener and 12 against Bessemer Monday night.

Coach Parker hasn't been getting to substitute as much as he would like to but junior forward-guard Tommy Finger has seen action in every game so far.

Finger has netted only two points, both on foul shots, but has been valuable on defense. Other substitutes with points are seniors Chip Bridges, John Van Dyke and Roger Ross. Bridges and Van Dyke have two points each and Ross has one.

Kings Mountain has outscored its opponents 192-170 through the first four games with a 59-33 win over Bessemer in the season's opener being the team's biggest output. The Mounties have won two games — Lowell and Bessemer — by one point with the latter going into overtime. The Mounties only loss was a six-point defeat by York.

Four Sophs In Starting Girls Lineup

Coach Bob Hussey, in his fourth year as girls' basketball head mentor, has four sophomores, a junior and a senior in his starting lineup. Junior Hilda Lowery and senior Susan Lowery join sophomores Sharon Gold, Libby Tedder, Joy Roberts and Kathy Plonk as the starting six.

Three senior starters are no longer with the team. They are, Glenda Lynn, Elaine Russell and Angela Ruff.

Gold is the leading scorer on the team with 29 points in three games and a 9.7 average. Before leaving the team, Lynn had 15 points in two contests for a 7.5 average.

Susan Lowery comes next with seven points in two games and a 3.5 average and sophomore Susan Howell has three points in one game for a 3.0 average.

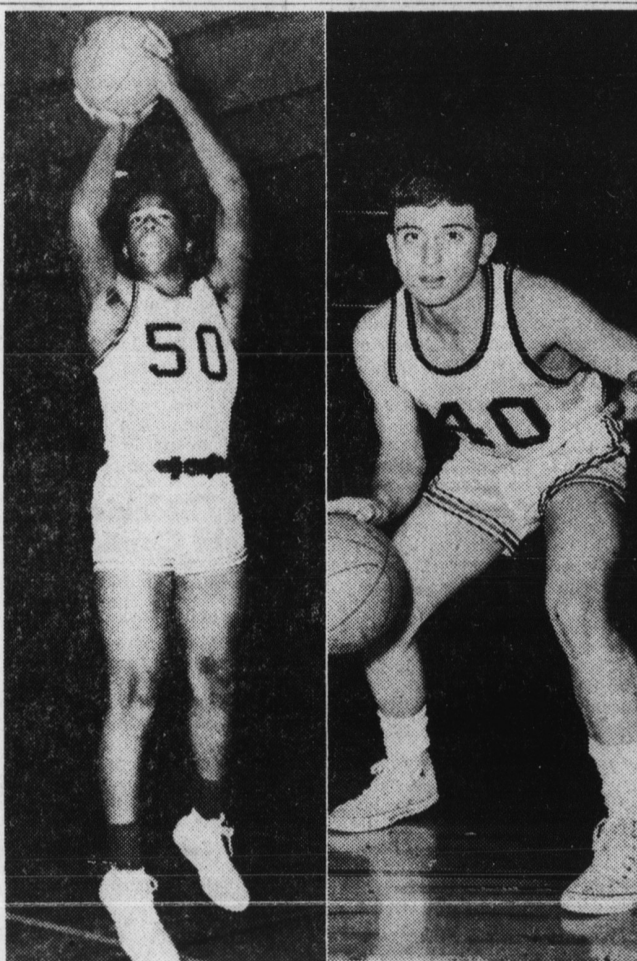
The girls sport a 2-1 record with two wins over Bessemer and a loss to York. They have netted 68 points in three games and have had 72 points scored against them.

Laughter Leading Junior Varsity Charge

Coach Bill Cashion's junior varsity boys have only played one game, that being a 33-28 win over Lowell. The jayvees will play at Lowell this Friday in a 7:00 contest.

Sophomore forward Stanley Laughter seems to be the big gun who will carry the biggest load this season. Laughter popped in 19 points in the jayvee opener Friday night with six field goals and seven foul shots.

Guard Frankie Little added eight points for the jayvees and Negroes Danny McDowell and Herbert Crocker finished the scoring with four and two points respectively.



STANDOUTS — Pictured above are Ken Mitchem (left) and Nelson Connor who have been pre-season standouts on the Mountaineer basketball team. Mitchem, a freshman, is the team's high scorer with 48 points in four games and Connor is second in scoring as well as an outstanding playmaker and ballhandler.

Danny Kiser Wins Plonk MVP Award

(Continued From Front Page)

said Coach Bates before presenting the Fred Plonk Blocking Trophy to tackle Chip Bridges. Bridges, 210-pound senior, was the only member of the 1965 Conference team and was selected to play in the annual North-South Lions Bowl game.

Bridges became the second tackle in as many years to receive the blocking award. Last year's winner was all-conference player Lyn Cheshire, who is currently attending The Citadel on a grid scholarship.

"The one that contributed more to our success than anyone else on the team" is how Coach Bill Bates described his Most Valuable Player, senior fullback Danny Kiser. Kiser was the team's leading rusher as well as scorer and was also a member of the South Lions Bowl team.

Kiser moved into a starting offensive position during the season's halfway mark, coming on strong to take over as leading rusher and scorer. Putting his defensive abilities together with his offensive showings made the 180-pounder a unanimous choice for the MVP honor.

Senior players receiving plaques were: Kiser, Bunch, Bridges, Jay Powell, Charles Ramsey, Bobby Bolin, Steve Goforth, Danny Finger, Robert Philfer, Mike Goforth, Fred Wright and Scott Cloninger.

Bates said of the entire team: "They gave us all that they had. We're not ashamed of them, in fact, we're proud of them. They wouldn't hang their heads in defeat. I think that you should be proud of them, also."

Football Banquet chairman Bill White presented coaches Bates, Don Parker, Bill Cashion and Bob Hussey with a gift, also.

Davidson College Coach Homer Smith was the guest speaker for the annual event. Smith's '65 Wildcats posted a 6-4 over-all record and the first year mentor also turned out two all-conference defensive players, end Pack Hindsley and halfback Dave Sprinkle. Hindsley and Sprinkle became the first two Davidson all-conference players in 29 years.

Coach Smith spoke briefly about the thrills and spills of his first season at Davidson. He said that probably the biggest thrill of the season came at halftime of the William and Mary game, at which time Davidson was behind 28-0, and during the last half of the season's finale against Bucknell when six boys were injured but played determined football and came back to lose by only one point.

Smith cracked off some jokes about Coach Bates and some of the football players, then concluded his speech on the serious side, instructing the boys on "being a good man."

Coach Smith pointed out three factors involved in being a good man:

- 1—knowing what your individual freedom means;
- 2—try to eliminate from your minds all thoughts that put you in conflict;
- 3—be serious about your education and take advantage of it.

Smith added that being religious and having a good appearance is a big part of being a good man.

Smith ended in saying: "When you compete, compete as furiously as you know how. Play as if it were the last day of the world."

Alexander's, Plonk Post Bowling Wins

Alexander's Auto Parts defeated league leader Clyde Culbertson three games to one Thursday night to move into a tie for third place in the Mixed Bowling League standings.

In other action, second place Clarence Plonk moved within four games of first place with a 3-1 win over the Alley Cats.

Richard and Ronnie Culbertson teamed up to lead Alexander's to the win with team captain Richard copping high scoring honors with a 148 line and a 365 set. But Ronnie was close behind with a 139 line and a 346 set. Roddy Houser and Jim Everhardt added 315 sets for the winners and Randy Blanton copped high honors for the losers with a 153 line and a 374 set.

Clarence Plonk copped night scoring honors with 157 line and a 394 set as he led his team to a 3-1 win over the Alley Cats. Lib Gault added a 358 set for the winners and John Dilling copped

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Libby Tedder's Foul Shot Gives Girls 23-22 Win

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers staged a fourth quarter comeback and outscored Bessemer City 5-4 in an overtime period to down the Yellow Jackets 56-55 here Monday night.

Coach Bob Hussey's Mountaineers won the opener when sophomore Libby Tedder hit a foul shot with 1:13 left in overtime to give the girls a 23-22 win over the B. C. ladies.

Bessemer City's boys led the entire way until senior guard Neal Cooper bucketed a foul shot with 6:30 left in the fourth period to knot the score at 37-37. The scoring went nip and tuck the rest of the way and the fourth quarter finally ended with the score 51-51.

Kings Mountain trailed by three and four points most of the way, but shortly after the beginning of the fourth quarter was down as much as eight points.

But some fired-up play on the part of Mountaineer guards Neal Cooper and Nelson Connor enabled the locals to pull the game even and force the visitors into an overtime period.

Bessemer's Frank Dameron hit a lay-up to put the Yellow Jackets ahead 53-51 shortly after the extra period began but the Mounties came back to outscore their opponents 5-4 and take the win.

All five Mountaineer starters scored in double figures with Cooper and center Larry Burton leading the way with 12 each. Connor and Scott Cloninger added 11 points apiece and freshman forward Kenny Mitchem, who fouled out of the game with 5:10 left in the fourth, scored 10.

Mike Albright led the Bessemer scoring with 16 points, followed by Sonny Jones with 14, Jody Long with 13 and Dameron with 10. Richard Kincaid scored the losers' other two points.

Playing with four sophomores, a junior and a senior, the Kings Mountain girls also staged a fourth quarter comeback and then won the game in overtime.

The regulation game ended in a 22-22 deadlock and Tedder gave the locals the win with a foul shot with 1:13 left in the extra period. The Mountaineers had trailed the entire game. Susan Lowery gave the girls their first lead, 22-20, with 3:00 left in the fourth stanza.

Lowery and Sharon Gold scored seven points each to lead the Mountaineer scoring. Kathy Plonk added four points, Hilda Lowery three, and Tedder chipped in two. Tedder's other foul shot came in the first quarter of play.

Vernell Causby led Bessemer's scoring with 12 points.

The Mountaineers' record to date stands at two wins and one defeat. Coach Don Parker's Mountaineers are 3-1.

BOYS BOX SCORES

Kings Mountain (23) F—Gold 7 F—H. Lowery 3 F—Plonk 4 G—S. Lowery 4 G—Tedder 7 G—Roberts 0 Bessemer City (22) F—Causby 12 F—Yarborough 2 F—Hager 1 G—Elmore 1 G—Broome 2 G—Picklesimer 0 Halftime Score: 18-15 (BC)

BOYS BOX SCORES

Kings Mountain (56) F—Cloninger 11 F—Mitchem 10 C—Burton 12 G—Connor 11 G—Cooper 12 Bessemer City (55) F—Albright 16 F—Isenhour 10 C—Long 13 G—Dameron 10 G—Jones 14

Subs Scoring: Kincaid 2 Halftime Score: 28-23 (BC)

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NEW COACH — Pictured above is Mrs. Glenda O'Shields, girls' ninth grade basketball coach at Kings Mountain high school, giving instructions to a couple of her freshmen players. This is Mrs. O'Shield's second year as a physical education teacher at KMHS and first year as a coach.

Kenny Mitchem's 13 Points Lead Mounties Past Lowell

Laughter Scores 19 As Jayvees Post First Win

Kings Mountain high school cagers posted two wins over Holbrook of Lowell Friday night at the local gym, the KMHS jayvee boys winning the opener 33-28, and the varsity Mountaineers taking the nightcap, 40-39.

In both contests the lead changed many times, with both Mountaineer teams having to stage fourth quarter comebacks to take the wins.

The Lowell jayvees took their first lead, 8-6, with 1:00 remaining in the first period. Kings Mountain knotted the score at 8-8 only seconds after the second quarter got underway and tied the score at 22-22 with a minute left in the third stanza.

The score was tied at 22-22 going into the final period. The Mounties took a 24-22 lead when Stanley Laughter bucketed a field goal only seconds after the fourth quarter began. With four minutes left, Tommy Threat hit a four shot to tie the game 26-26 for Lowell.

Fresh in off the bench, Negro sophomore Herbert Crocker led the game for Coach Bill Cashion's jayvees, when he hit a field goal with 3:30 left to put the Mounties ahead to stay, 28-26. Crocker replaced Frankie Little who left the game after drawing a technical foul.

After Crocker made the goal, Lowell wasn't even in the same game with the Mounties. The Mounties put the game out of reach, and with some excellent ballhandling by Crocker and Danny McDowell, Kings Mountain kept possession of the ball for the bigger part of the final three minutes.

Laughter led the KM scoring with 19 points, followed by Little with eight, McDowell with two, and Crocker with two. Forward Stanley Yarbro and center Charles Green were outstanding on defense for the Mounties.

Kenneth Mitchem scored 13 points to lead the varsity boys to their second win of the year in the nightcap.

Mitchem pumped in five field goals and three charity tosses for the total. Jimmy Horton of Lowell was the game's leading scorer with 23 points.

Kings Mountain tied the game for the first time with 2:00 left in the third period when Neal Cooper hit a foul shot to knot the score at 31-31. Only 30 seconds later, Everett Reid put the Lions back ahead at 33-31.

The Mounties grabbed the lead with 5:30 left in the game when Cooper hit a jumper from about 20 feet out to make the score 36-35. One minute later, Ronnie Sitters had Lowell ahead once more, 37-36.

Scott Cloninger put the Mounties ahead for good with a scoring honors for the losers with a 115 line and a 318 set.

STANDINGS

Team W L Pct. Clyde Culbertson 29 19 .604 Clarence Plonk 25 23 .521 Alexander's 21 27 .439 Alley Cats 21 27 .439

Mounties Play At Holbrook Friday Night

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers travel to Lowell Friday night to take on the Holbrook Lions in a non-conference battle which will be the last game for the Mounties until January 4 when they host York.

The Mountaineers took a 40-39 decision from the Lions in their last meeting here Friday night. Kings Mountain's jayvees, who defeated Lowell 33-28 last week, will play in the opening game.

Kings Mountain's starting lineup will consist of Kenneth Mitchem and Scott Cloninger at the forwards, Nelson Connor and Neal Cooper at the guards and Larry Burton at center. Coach Don Parker will have junior Tommy Finger ready for sub duties.

Lowell Coach Porter Griggs will have Chuck Sreene, Bobby Horne, Jim Phillips, Ronnie Sitters and Jimmy Horton in the starting lineup with Negro Everett Reid listed as his sixth man.

Horton, a sharpshooting guard, scored 23 points in the first meeting of the two teams and will again be the top offensive gun for the Lions.

Jayvee Coach Bill Cashion will have forwards Stanley Laughter and Stanley Yarbro guards Danny McDowell and Frankie Little and center Charles Green as the top five with Phil Putnam, Herbert Crocker, Darrell Whetstone and Tommy Philbeck listed as the top reserves.

Kings Mountain's girls will not play this week. They will return to action on Tuesday, January 4, when the two KMHS Varsity teams host York.



HIGH SCORER — Pictured above is sophomore forward Stanley Laughter who scored 19 points to lead the KMHS junior varsity boys to a 33-28 win over Holbrook of Lowell Friday night.

Pearson Attends Baseball Meeting

Kings Mountain Little League Baseball Commissioner Roy Pearson attended the 1965 meeting of the Little League Leagues, Inc., at North Carolina State University Saturday.

Purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for the coming year, discuss rule changes and other things pertaining to Little League baseball.

Pearson reports that there will be a meeting next June to draw up sites of the 1966 district and state playoffs. The district playoffs were held in Kings Mountain last year, and although the tournaments are supposed to be held in different cities each year, Pearson said that there is a chance that the playoffs can be held here again next season.

Kings Mountain was recognized at the meeting as having one of the best Little League programs in the state. Last year, eight teams made up the local league but plans are that 12 teams will be entered in two separate six-team leagues come next season.

Pearson expresses his appreciation to the local business establishments which sponsored teams last year and to all firms having a part in the Little League program.